

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095665
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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TAGS:EFIS, SENV, IWC-1, AORG

SUBJECT:US COMMENTS ON DRAFT AGENDA FOR IWC ANNUAL MEETING,
JUNE 26 - 30, 1978

REQUEST EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING LETTER FROM RICHARD
A. FRANK, US COMMISSIONER, TO THE IWC SECRETARY, DR. RAY
GAMBELL IMMEDIATELY

DEAR RAY:

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 15 THE FOLLOW-
ING ARE THE UNITED STATES COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AGENDA
FOR THE 30TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMIS-
SION, JUNE 26-30, 1978.

AGENDA ITEM 4. WE REQUEST THAT THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION
FOR THIS ITEM BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNOTATED AGENDA:
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PAGE 02 STATE 095665

"THIS ITEM WILL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE MODIFI-
CATIONS OF THE RULES OF CONDUCT FOR OBSERVERS. THE UNITED
STATES WILL PROPOSE THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM TAKE
PLACE FIRST IN THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE. SINCE THIS IS A
MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THE TOTAL COMMISSION,
THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH THE

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEKING A SOLUTION BY PROPOSING AN ACCEPTABLE WORDING FOR RULE III TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION."

WE ALSO REQUEST THAT A NEW RULE IV BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

RULE IV: "THE PRESS MAY ATTEND ALL OPEN MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AFTER OBTAINING PRESS CREDENTIALS FROM THE SECRETARY APPROVED BY THE CHAIRMAN."

WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSED RULE IV:

"ATTENDANCE BY THE PRESS WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN PRESENTING A MORE OBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIONS AND WOULD ELIMINATE THE CONCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION IS A SECRET ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE."

AGENDA ITEM 8. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION FOR THE WHOLE OF THIS AGENDA ITEM.

"THE NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (NMP) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1975 AS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE FORMER PRACTICES OF THE COMMISSION WHICH ALLOWED WHALE STOCKS TO BE EXPLOITED AT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 095665

SUSTAINABLE YIELD AND HIGHER LEVELS AND THE POSITION OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SUPPORTING A 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING. SINCE THE NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR THREE YEARS, IT IS DESIRABLE TO REVIEW HOW IT HAS FUNCTIONED AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT SOME CHANGES, INCLUDING INCREASED PROTECTION, SHOULD BE MADE."

AGENDA ITEM 9.2.3. WE REQUEST THAT THE ANNOTATION ON THIS SUBITEM SHOULD INCLUDE A COMMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASSESS THE STATUS OF THE SPAIN-PORTUGAL-BRITISH ISLES STOCK OF FIN WHALES AND TO ESTABLISH A QUOTA, IF THE SPANISH GOVT HAS PROVIDED STATISTICS AS THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD LAST YEAR.

AGENDA ITEM 10. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION FOR AGENDA ITEM 10 AS A WHOLE.

"THE COMMISSION HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN TAKING A MORE CAREFUL LOOK AT SUBSISTENCE/ABORIGINAL WHALING. SINCE INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF ABORIGINAL TAKING IS A

RELATIVELY NEW ENDEAVOR THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES OR PROCEDURES

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC TREATMENT OR REGULATION
OF ABORIGINAL WHALING. THE UNITED STATES MAY PRESENT
SUCH A PROCEDURE TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.
IT MAY BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL GROUP DURING
THE COMMISSION MEETING. ALSO, THE COMMENTS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

UNDER ITEM 10.1, YOU MAY INDICATE THAT THE UNITED STATES
MAY PROVIDE A PROPOSED DEFINITION OF SUBSISTENCE/ABORIGI-
NAL WHALING, IF NECESSARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 095665

UNDER ITEM 10.3, THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE A
REPORT ON THE 1978 SPRING HUNT FOR BOWHEAD WHALES.

AGENDA ITEM 13. WE REQUEST ADDITION OF A NEW 13.2 AND A
RELABELING OF 13.2 PRESENTLY TO 13.3. THIS NEW SUB-ITEM
SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

13.2 - REPORTS FROM MEMBER NATIONS ON DATA COLLECTED IN
CONSISTENCE WITH THE IWC RESOLUTION OF 1977. ADD THE
FOLLOWING TO THE WORDING IN PARENTHESIS: "(AND POSSIBLE
SCHEDULE CHANGES RELATED TO REPORTING.)"

AGENDA ITEM 14. WE PROPOSE A NEW RULE TO BE ADDED TO THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATIVE TO ITEM 14.2 THE RULE WOULD
READ AS FOLLOWS: NEW RULE XI (F)

"PROVIDE COPIES OR AVAILABILITY TO A COPY OF
REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION INCLUDING REPORTS
OF OBSERVERS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER
SCHEME, UPON REQUEST."

WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION RELATING TO THE
PROPOSED RULE XI (F): "SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER
SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHETHER OR
NOT WHALING NATIONS ARE ABIDING BY IWC REGULATIONS, AND
SINCE VIOLATIONS ARE VERY LIMITED, THE MORE INFORMATION
THAT CAN BE DISTRIBUTED, THE BETTER THE IMAGES OF IWC AND
WHALING NATIONS WORLDWIDE."

AGENDA ITEM 14.3 - WE REQUEST THAT THE ANNOTATION OF
THIS SUB-ITEM MENTION THAT THE UNITED STATES MAY WISH
TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF MODIFYING THE OBSERVER SCHEME TO
PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBLE MEANS OF EXCHANGING OBSERVERS.
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PAGE 05 STATE 095665

AGENDA ITEM 18.4.2 - IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE THE ANNOTATION MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF USING ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER AS THE RULES FOR DEBATE OR THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN.

AGENDA ITEM 18.4.4 - WE EXPECT THAT THE ANNOTATION OF THIS ITEM WOULD INDICATE THE DESIRABILITY OF PRODUCING LARGER NUMBERS OF THE COMMISSION DOCUMENTS SO THAT THEY COULD BE MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO THOSE REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

IF THIS ITEM IS REFERRING TO DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS DURING THE MEETING, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO HAVE COPIES OF PRESS RELEASES AND FINAL COMMITTEE REPORTS AVAILABLE FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION, BUT ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS ONLY.

AGENDA ITEM 21. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE ANNOTATION FOR THIS ITEM INCLUDE THE PROBABILITY OF RESOLUTIONS BEING SUBMITTED CALLING FOR ACTION BY NON-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS.

AGENDA ITEM 22. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ANNOTATION FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM:

THE UNITED STATES MAY PROPOSE A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONVENTION; SUCH AS THE ROLE OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING, PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES, AND SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TEXTUAL CHANGES.

AGENDA ITEM 24. WE PROPOSE THAT SUB-ITEMS 5 AND 6 BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 06 STATE 095665

24.5 REPORT OF SPECIAL MEETING ON ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

24.6 REPORT OF MEETING TO RENEGOTIATE THE INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.

IF YOU WISH, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE REPORTS OF

THESE MEETINGS.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

IN ADDITION TO OUR COMMENTS ABOVE, THE UNITED STATES
PROPOSES ADDITION OF ONE NEW AGENDA ITEM AS FOLLOWS:

A. STOCKS OF SMALL CETACEANS (CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
29TH MEETING, PARAGRAPH 12 AND 9 (III) (E)).

1. REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SMALL CETACEANS.

2. ACTION ARISING.

(THE CLASSIFICATION OF STOCKS AND THE REGULATION OF
CATCHES WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF THE SCHEDULE INCLUDING
PARAGRAPHS 1, 21, 22 AND 23, OR ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS.)

ANNOTATION SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

SINCE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL CETACEANS IS SCHEDULED
TO MEET DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE,
ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION. CHRISTOPHER

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